

The 2017 General Assembly approved a budget including language directing the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to develop and implement strategies for housing people with serious mental illness (SMI) in Virginia, that may include potential Medicaid financing, and to submit an annual report regarding these efforts. To fulfill this request, DHCD has worked closely with the Department of Medicaid Services (DMAS); the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS); and the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA.) In addition, VHDA contracted with Technical Assistance Collaborative to research and recommend strategies for the financing of supportive housing and supportive services for individuals with SMI in Virginia. DHCD established an external Stakeholder group – the “Strategy Group” – to further advise the agencies and TAC on potential strategies for housing people with SMI.

TAC conducted the following activities in order to inform the forthcoming report:

- Stakeholder Interviews with: The Norfolk, Piedmont, Richmond and Suffolk Community Services Boards (CSBs); Virginia Association of CSBs; Pathways Home; NAMI of Virginia; VOCAL; Mental Health America of Virginia; Virginia Housing Alliance, the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice; the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association; and Sheriff Steve Draper and Major Laura Hopkins.
- State Agency Interviews with: DHCD, DBHDS, DMAS, and VHDA
- Meetings with the Strategy Group: TAC facilitated three meetings with the Strategy Group. The first session was to share and gather information; the second to obtain feedback on observations about housing and services for individuals with SMI in Virginia and the third session to review preliminary recommendations.

The PowerPoint presentation here summarizes the preliminary Recommended Strategies to expand permanent supportive housing (PSH), an evidence-based approach for housing persons with serious mental illness in Virginia. The recommendations are organized in the following manner:

- Opportunities to Expand PSH through DMAS
- Opportunities to Expand PSH through DBHDS
- Opportunities to Expand PSH through Capital and Rental Assistance
- Opportunities to Expand PSH through Systems Supports
- Opportunities to Expand PSH through Public/Private Partnerships

[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

Comments on the recommendations are due no later than COB December 13, 2017 to [serch@tacinc.org](mailto:serch@tacinc.org)

TAC will be providing an overview of the recommendations via a webinar, "Permanent Supportive Housing for People with Serious Mental Illness in Virginia: Opportunities and Recommendations," on **Friday, December 8, 2017 at 1:00 PM EST**. The webinar is free but you must register in order to participate by clicking on the link below:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/250808885011938307>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.